

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COPENH 03344 271555Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-05

LAB-01 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 HEW-02 OPR-01 NIC-01

SAJ-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W
----- 004125

P R 271448Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0072

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 3344

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, DA

SUBJECT: MASSIVE LABOR DEMONSTRATION AGAINST HARTLING GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY: SOME SIXTY TO SEVENTY THOUSAND WORKERS MASSED
OUTSIDE CHRISTIANSBORG PALACE THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 26
TO PROTEST CURRENT UNEMPLOYMENT LEVELS AND TO DEMAND THE
RESIGNATION OF THE HARTLING GOVERNMENT. DESPITE
RAIN MOST OF THE DAY, THIS COMMUNIST-CONCEIVED AND LED
DEMONSTRATION ATTRACTED AN IMPRESSIVE DEGREE OF SUPPORT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 COPENH 03344 271555Z

FRFROM THE DISSATISFIED TRADE-UNION LEFT IN DENMARK. IT

MAKES AN EARLY ELECTION MORE PROBABLE AND IT CONSTITUTES, MOREOVER, A CLEAR WARNING THAT COMMUNIST PROGRESS IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT IS A DANGER TO THAT MOVEMENT'S SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY.

1. THE DEMONSTRATION WAS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY THE CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL IN COPENHAGEN AS A PROTEST AGAINST HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE HOUSING FIELD. THE IDEA WAS QUICKLY ADOPTED, HOWEVER, BY THE CHAIRMEN'S INITIATIVE, THE INFORMAL COMMUNIST COMMITTEE OF COPENHAGEN TRADE UNION OFFICIALS, AND GIVEN THE BROADER CONTEXT OF A PROTEST AGAINST THE HARTLING GOVERNMENT. THREE WEEKS AGO, WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE DEMONSTRATION WOULD ATTRACT WIDE SUPPORT, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS FELT COMPELLED TO PARTICIPATE, AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN WAS ADDED TO THE LIST OF SPEAKERS, ALONG WITH GERT PETERSEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S PARTY, AND KNUD JESPERSEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE DANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (DKP).

2. ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNIST SPONSORS WISHED TO COMBINE THE DEMONSTRATION WITH A ONE-DAY STRIKE, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS INSISTED, AND WON AT LEAST A PARTIAL CONCESSION, THAT THE DEMONSTRATION OCCUR AFTER WORKING HOURS IN THE LATE AFTERNOON. WHILE THIS PREVENTED A GENERAL ONE-DAY STRIKE, AN ESTIMATED TEN THOUSAND WORKERS DID STRIKE IN ORDER TO JOIN PRE-DEMONSTRATION COMMUNIST RALLIES, CLOSING BREWERIES, THE BERMEISTER AND WAIN SHIPYARD AND THE LARGER INDUSTRIAL PLANTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. WORKERS TOOK SPECIAL TRAINS FROM OTHER CITIES TO JOIN THE MAIN COPENHAGEN DEMONSTRATION, ALTHOUGH SMALLER DEMONSTRATIONS WERE ARRANGED IN THE LEADING PROVINCIAL CITIES AS WELL.

3. ALL DEMONSTRATION SPEAKERS CALLED FOR THE OUSTER OF THE HARTLING GOVERNMENT, WHICH THEY CHARGED WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE "HIGHEST UNEMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCED IN THE PAST TWENTY YEARS." THE DEMONSTRATION TOOK AN ANTI-SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC TURN AS ANKER JORGENSEN WAS PREVENTED FROM SPEAKING BY REPEATED JEERING FROM THE COMMUNIST SEGMENT OF THE CROWD. LEFTIST INDEPENDENT INFORMATION NOTED THIS MORNING THE IRONY IN THE FACT THE JORGENSEN, LEADER OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 COPENH 03344 271555Z

DOMINANT LABOR PARTY, WAS UNABLE TO SPEAK TO "HIS LABOR MOVEMENT."

4. IN FACT, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WERE PARTICIPATING AS A DEFENSIVE TACTIC TO PREVENT THE COMMUNISTS FROM REAPING THE ENTIRE POLITICAL BENEFIT. CAUGHT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT'S HARD-LINE POLICY, AIMING AT ENDING RECESSION BY FORCING THROUGH A WAGE FREEZE FOR THE COMING YEAR, AND INCREASING

COMMUNIST MILITANCY AND SUCCESS, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ARE AT PRESENT DIVIDED AND RUDDERLESS. TIME AFTER TIME THEY HAVE BEEN FORCED IN THE END TO SUPPORT A COMMUNIST "CAUSE", MERELY TO AVOID BEING ISOLATED.

5. COMMENT: THE POLITICAL IMPACT OF THE NOVEMBER 26 DEMONSTRATION MAY WELL BE CONSIDERABLE AND POSSIBLY DECISIVE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT HARLING GOVERNMENT. IT WAS AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE SOLID INFLUENCE THE CHAIRMAN'S INITIATIVE GROUP HAS WITHIN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, ESPECIALLY IN THE INDUSTRIAL COPENHAGEN AREA. IT WAS ALSO A SIGNAL THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL ANTI-SOCIALIST OBJECTIVES OF THE HARTLING GOVERNMENT ARE NOW UNDERSTOOD BY THE DANISH LEFT. THE RESULTANT POLITICAL POLARIZATION BETWEEN SOCIALIST AND NON-SOCIALIST BLOCS, OF WHICH THIS DEMONSTRATION WAS IN ITSELF AN EXPRESSION, WILL MAKE IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS TO ACCEPT A COMPROMISE ON THE VITAL WAGE SETTLEMENT WITH A LIBERAL GOVERNMENT. THE DEMONSTRATION, CONSUELTLY, AS INTENDED BY ITS COMMUNIST SPONSORS CONTRIBUTED TO MAKING AN EARLY ELECTION MORE PROBABLE.
CROWE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, UNEMPLOYMENT, LABOR UNIONS, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COPENH03344
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740344-0712
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974119/aaaaagxs.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <14-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MASSIVE LABOR DEMONSTRATION AGAINST HARTLING GOVERNMENT SUMMARY: SOME SIXTY TO SEVENTY THOUSAND WORKERS MASSED
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, DA, (HARTLING)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005